



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

**BOARD OF
LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS**

Mel Katz, Chair

Matthew Hervey
Susan Lew
Judy McCarty
MaryAnne Pinter
Natalie Rencher
Katie Sullivan

**MINUTES
BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS
SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2005**

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners:

Present: Matthew Hervey, Mel Katz, Judy McCarty, Natalie Rencher, Katie Sullivan

Absent: Susan Lew, MaryAnne Pinter

Staff: Ellie Oppenheim, Deputy City Manager; Anna Tatár, Library Director; Afshin Oskoui, Deputy Director; Meryl Balko, Deputy Director; Margaret Kazmer, Deputy Director; Jay Hill, Director of Development; Carol Young, Senior Management Analyst

Public: Vicky Church, Thomas Jamieson

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. in the Commission Room of the Central Library.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The October 2005 minutes were approved.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCE

None.

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

REPORT FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY: Vicky Church

Action is being taken to establish a Friends of the Library chapter for the North University Community Branch Library.

Ms. Church passed around a full page ad from the *San Diego Union-Tribune* for the Library Tower, which shows an illustration of the new Main Library.

CHAIR'S UPDATE: Mel Katz

Author Jonathan Kozol spoke at a standing room only event at the Central Library sponsored by the City Club. The audience was very diverse, and the audience responded enthusiastically when the new Main Library was mentioned.

There will be a meeting with three potential Main Library donors on November 19, and hopefully there will be an announcement in December regarding a major gift.

SERRA SYSTEM ADVISORY BOARD: Tom Jamieson

Six candidates were interviewed for the vacant Serra Director position. An offer was made but the selected candidate turned it down.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE: Anna Tatár

- Ms. Tatár presented Commissioner Katz with an autographed copy of Jonathan Kozol's book The Shame of the Nation.
- The Library is considering doing a One Book/One City program around the book about Miss Breed, and is working with the Center for the Book to develop the program. The focus will be broadened to include the concept of civil liberties. The author will be launching her book tour in San Diego at the end of February, and programs and events will be planned.

Commissioner McCarty noted that this program can reinforce the importance of libraries and educate newcomers to the area on San Diego's history.

- The Stories of Faith program was nominated for another prestigious national award by the California Council for the Humanities.
- Ms. Tatár attended the dedication ceremony for the CALIT2 building at UCSD. The building contains a substantial amount of technology.
- The Library has a table at the YMCA Tribute Dinner honoring Commissioner Katz and Phil Blair thanks to a contribution from Manpower.
- November is National American Indian Heritage Month, and special programs will be held at the Central Library during the month.
- November 14 through 20 is Children's Book Week, and all facilities will be participating with activities and fun events.

Commissioner Katz asked about the public's reaction to reduced branch library hours. Ms. Balko responded that the public is still getting used to the new schedule, but circulation patterns are starting to change. Different concerns are being raised by various communities. In general the public has been tolerant. Staff has found the schedule to be harder on them, particularly on the longer days. The schedule will be evaluated at the six month point.

- Mr. Hill presented a fundraising update and distributed a written report. The August water bill insert was very successful. Overall there is a 45 percent increase in new donors this year, and direct mail contributions are up 26 percent. The focus of the direct mail campaign this year will be on new acquisitions.

Commissioner McCarty asked how much was raised by the College-Rolando campaign. Mr. Hill responded that the community raised over \$100,000, a \$175,000 estate gift was received, and the Development Office did targeted mailings which brought in additional funds. He noted that Dan Cornwaihthe provided excellent leadership in the campaign.

Commissioner McCarty suggested that a letter be written to the City Council to thank them for their support of the Development Program, and to highlight the successes of the program. This will be discussed further under agenda items.

Commissioner Katz noted that the Library Foundation is participating in the San Diego Foundation's Endow San Diego marketing program. Over 200 organizations are participating in the program to promote endowments, and the Library's Flag Fund was featured.

MANAGER'S UPDATE: Ellen Oppenheim

Ms. Oppenheim reported that the Manager's Office is in the process of re-examining the current year budget as well as already starting to look at the next fiscal year's budget. Departments have been asked to submit savings plans which will be considered to address funding shortfalls. The FY 2007 proposed budget will be released on April 15, which is considerably earlier than in previous years.

The City Manager reported to Council that 3 percent reductions will be needed to balance the General Fund budget. Departments were asked to submit a 5 percent savings plan for FY 2006, and a 10 percent savings plan in 1 percent increments for FY 2007.

Commissioner Hervey asked whether fundraising success is taken into consideration when looking at potential reductions. Ms. Oppenheim responded that it is considered, and that it is a good strategy to promote successes.

Commissioner Katz asked about when it would be best to remind Councilmembers about the Library Ordinance and statements that they had made during budget hearings that they did not want to waive the ordinance again. Ms. Oppenheim said that it will be important to keep the Mayor and City Council well informed about the Library's role and its successes.

Ms. Church asked whether municipal bankruptcy would affect funds raised for a specific purpose, e.g. for library construction. Ms. Oppenheim responded that there is a bank of law that will protect funds designated for a specific purpose, and that the City is not considering bankruptcy at this time.

AGENDA ITEMS

10.a Library System Update

Afshin Oskoui reviewed the written update on capital projects. Main Library plans have been submitted to Development Services for plan check. Bids for clean-up of the new site were below estimates, so a contract will be awarded soon.

Construction contracts for the Otay-Nestor, Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa, North University Community and Logan Heights facilities are all proceeding well. Four items were approved by City Council this week to move projects along, the most prominent being the transfer of \$2.7 million to fund phase 2 of the Logan Heights project. Other approvals were to fund design work for the San Carlos, Balboa and Mission Hills facilities.

Concerns about the Skyline Hills project expressed by the Library Commission have been passed on to the Council office, and Commissioner Hervey will be meeting next week to discuss them.

10.b Budget Update

Motion

Motion was made by Commissioner McCarty to send a letter from the Board to City Council thanking them for their continued support of the Library Department's Development Program, and indicating how successful the fundraising efforts have been, in order to show how strong community support of the Library has been. The most recent development report should be attached to the letter.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Sullivan.

The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Tatár noted that the requested 2006 savings plan will be more challenging than in past years because most of the budgeted library materials funds have already been expended, and there is little salary savings available. Protocol is that the savings plan must be presented to City Council before being shared with the Library Commission. A meeting will be set up with the Commission's budget subcommittee to discuss their savings suggestions.

10.e Legislative Update

No report.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Rencher was congratulated on her appointment as Stockton Public Library Director.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Katz adjourned the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

ANNA TATÁR
Library Director

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